

CLAIMS

1. A recording apparatus for recording a content which is a digital copyrighted work onto a recording medium, comprising:
 - a content obtainment unit operable to obtain a content
5 provided externally;
 - a content type identification unit operable to identify a type of the obtained content;
 - a recording medium type identification unit operable to identify a type of the recording medium;
 - 10 a recording method selection unit operable to select at least one recording method out of a plurality of recording methods based on the type of the content identified by the content type identification unit and the type of the recording medium identified by the recording medium type identification unit; and
 - 15 a recording unit operable to record the content onto the recording medium according to the selected recording method.
2. The recording apparatus according to Claim 1,
 - wherein the content type identification unit identifies, as the
20 type of the content, at least one of a first type in which the content is provided through a transmission medium and a second type in which the content is provided by the recording medium.
3. The recording apparatus according to Claim 1,
 - 25 wherein the recording medium type identification unit identifies the type of the recording medium according to a type of information previously stored in a non-rewritable area of the recording medium.
- 30 4. The recording apparatus according to Claim 1,
 - wherein the recording method selection unit selects said one recording method out of the plurality of recording methods

compliant with a method for protecting a copyright of a content.

5. The recording apparatus according to Claim 1,
wherein the recording method selection unit further selects
5 said one recording method out of the plurality of recording
methods based on an instruction from a provider of the content.

6. The recording apparatus according to Claim 1,
wherein the content includes specification information for
10 specifying said one recording method out of the plurality of
recording methods; and
the recording method selection unit further selects said one
recording method out of the plurality of recording methods based
on the specification information included in the content.

15 7. The recording apparatus according to Claim 1,
wherein the recording method selection unit further selects
said one recording method out of the plurality of recording
methods based on an instruction by a user.

20 8. The recording apparatus according to Claim 1,
wherein the recording method selection unit further selects
said one recording method out of the plurality of recording
methods based on a security level required for the content.

25 9. The recording apparatus according to Claim 1,
wherein the recording method selection unit further selects
said one recording method out of the plurality of recording
methods based on quality of the content.

30 10. The recording apparatus according to Claim 1,
wherein the content obtainment unit includes a plurality of

input channel units, each corresponding to a type of data to be obtained, and

the recording method selection unit further selects said one recording method out of the plurality of recording methods according to which one of the plurality of the input channel units has obtained the content.

11. The recording apparatus according to Claim 1,

wherein the recording unit records a second content by a second recording method on the recording medium while retaining a first content, when the first content is recorded on the recording medium by a first recording method.

12. The recording apparatus according to Claim 1,

wherein a first content is recorded onto the recording medium by a first recording method, and

the recording apparatus further records the first content by a second recording method onto the recording medium after reading out the first content from the recording medium.

13. The recording apparatus according to Claim 1,

wherein the recording method selection unit selects two or more recording methods out of the plurality of recording methods, and

the recording unit records the content onto the recording medium according to the selected two or more recording methods.

14. The recording apparatus according to Claim 1,

wherein the content obtainment unit sends the obtained content to the recording unit via a transmission channel,

the recording unit records the content received via the transmission channel onto the recording medium, and

the content obtainment unit encrypts the content according to a recording method adopted by a recording unit that is a destination of the transmission and sends the encrypted content to the recording unit.

5

15. The recording apparatus according to Claim 14,
wherein the recording method includes a first recording method and a second recording method compliant with the method for protecting a copyright of a content, and

10 the content obtainment unit encrypts the content with a previously held secret key when the recording unit adopts the first recording method, and encrypts the content with an externally obtained secret key when the recording unit adopts the second recording method.

15

16. The recording apparatus according to Claim 14,
wherein the recording method includes a first recording method and a second recording method compliant with the method for protecting a copyright of a content, and

20 the content obtainment unit reencrypts the content into an encrypted content corresponding to the second recording method and sends the reencrypted content to the recording unit when the obtained content is an encrypted content corresponding to the first recording method.

25

17. A content protection system comprising a server apparatus and a terminal apparatus connected via a transmission channel;
wherein the server apparatus includes:

30 a readout unit operable to read out an encrypted content and decryption information for decrypting the encrypted content from a recording medium on which the encrypted content and the decryption information are recorded; and

a sending unit operable to send the readout encrypted content and decryption information to the terminal apparatus via the transmission channel, and

the terminal apparatus includes:

5 a receiving unit operable to receive the encrypted content and the decryption information to be sent via the transmission channel; and

a decryption unit operable to decrypt the received encrypted content using the decryption information received,

10 wherein the sending unit sends the decryption information via a secure transmission channel after establishing the secure transmission channel between the server apparatus and the terminal apparatus.

15 18. The content protection system according to Claim 17, wherein the decryption information includes medium identification information for identifying the recording medium stored in a non-rewritable area of the recording medium.

20 19. The content protection system according to Claim 17, wherein the terminal apparatus further includes a reproduction unit operable to play back the content decrypted by the decryption unit as at least one of a sound or an image.

25 20. The content protection system according to Claim 17, wherein the terminal apparatus further includes a recording unit which records the content decrypted by the decryption unit onto a recording medium.

30 21. The content protection system according to Claim 20, wherein the recording unit encrypts the content decrypted by the decryption unit using an encryption method different from

an encryption corresponding to the decryption and records the encrypted content onto the recording medium.

22. A terminal apparatus which is connected to a server apparatus via a transmission channel,

wherein the server apparatus includes:

a readout unit operable to read out an encrypted content and decryption information from a recording medium on which the encrypted content and the decryption information required for decrypting the encrypted content are recorded; and

a sending unit operable to send the readout encrypted content and the decryption information to the terminal apparatus via the transmission channel, and

the terminal apparatus includes:

a receiving unit operable to receive the encrypted content and the decryption information to be sent via the transmission channel; and

a decryption unit operable to decrypt the received encrypted content with the decryption information,

wherein the sending unit sends the decryption information via a secure transmission channel after establishing the secure transmission channel between the server apparatus and the terminal apparatus.

23. A recording method for recording a content which is a digital copyrighted work onto a recording medium, comprising:

a content obtainment step of obtaining a content provided externally;

a content type identification step of identifying a type of the obtained content;

a recording medium type identification step of identifying a type of the recording medium;

a recording method selection step of selecting at least one recording method out of a plurality of recording methods based on the type of the content identified in the content type identification step and the type of the recording medium identified in the recording medium type identification step; and

a recording step of recording the content onto the recording medium according to the selected recording method.

24. A recording method used for a content protection system comprising a server apparatus and a terminal apparatus connected via a transmission channel, the recording method comprising steps A executed on the server apparatus and steps B executed on the terminal apparatus,

wherein the steps A include:

a readout step of reading out an encrypted content and decryption information from a recording medium on which the encrypted content and the decryption information required for decrypting the encrypted content; and

a sending step of sending the readout encrypted content and the decryption information to the terminal apparatus via the transmission channel, and

the steps B include:

a receiving step of receiving the encrypted content and the decryption information to be sent via the transmission channel; and

a decryption step of decrypting the received encrypted content with the received decryption information,

wherein the sending step sends the decryption information via a secure transmission channel after establishing the secure transmission channel.

25. A recording medium on which a content that is a digital

copyrighted work is recorded by a recording apparatus,

wherein the recording apparatus includes:

a content obtainment unit operable to obtain a content provided externally;

5 a content type identification unit operable to identify a type of the obtained content;

a recording medium type identification unit operable to identify a type of the recording medium ;

10 a recording method selection unit operable to select at least one recording method out of a plurality of recording methods based on the type of the content identified by the content type identification unit and the type of the recording medium identified by the recording medium type identification unit; and

15 a recording unit operable to record the content on the recording medium according to the selected recording method.

26. A program for a recording method for recording a content which is a digital copyrighted work on a recording medium, comprising:

20 a content obtainment step of obtaining a content provided externally;

a content type identification step of identifying a type of the obtained content;

25 a recording medium type identification step of identifying a type of the recording medium;

30 a recording method selection step of selecting at least one recording method out of a plurality of recording methods based on the type of the content identified by the content type identification step and the type of the recording medium identified by the recording medium type identification step; and

a recording step of recording the content on the recording medium according to the selected recording method.